

## **Remarks**

Claims 1-23 and 27-29 were pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 9, 11, 13, and 17-21 have been amended, claims 27-29 have been canceled herein without prejudice, and no new claims have been added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

### **Election/Restrictions**

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 27-29 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention, and Applicants have canceled claims 27-29 herein without prejudice.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9-17 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have rewritten claims 9, 13, and 21 in independent form such that these claims are now allowable over the cited art.

### **Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 18-20** **Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Over Dau**

Claims 1-6 and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0029921 to Dau et al. ("Dau"). Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite "wherein the secondary longitudinal members are connected to the first cross member at respective points inboard of the side rails," which was previously recited in claim 17 and which the Examiner has indicated is allowable subject matter in view of the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Dau, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim, along with claims 2-6 and 18-20 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

**Rejection of Claim 7**  
**Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Dau and Froumajou**

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dau in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,774,712 to Froumajou ("Froumajou"). Claim 7 depends from and contains all the limitations of independent claim 1, which is patentably distinguishable over Dau, either alone or in combination with Froumajou. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

**Rejection of Claim 8**  
**Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Dau and Sonomura**

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dau in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,722,696 to Sonomura et al. ("Sonomura"). Claim 8 depends from and contains all the limitations of independent claim 1 which, as explained above, is patentably distinguishable over Dau, either alone or in combination with Sonomura. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is also respectfully requested.

## **Conclusion**

In summary, Applicants believe that the claims meet all formal and substantive requirements and that the case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance of the case or resolve any further questions, such a call is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

The Petition fee of **\$130.00** is being charged to Deposit Account No. 02-3978 via electronic authorization submitted concurrently herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

**VINCENT JENNINGS et al.**

By /Stephanie M. Mansfield/

Stephanie M. Mansfield  
Reg. No. 43,773  
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

Date: February 17, 2009

**BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.**  
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor  
Southfield, MI 48075-1238  
Phone: 248-358-4400  
Fax: 248-358-3351